

[Letter from Nancie Drake to Arno Knight who is working in West Dedham; Nancie is Arno's cousin (her mother Ruth is sister to Rufus Knight)]

Ctr. Lincolnville May 10, 1872

Friday Night

Dear Cousin

Having a few spare moments I thought I would employ them in answering your letter. I was very much surprised to hear from you at so late a day I looked for a letter from you for a while after you went away, but had given up all hope, and all the way I heard from you was by inquiry from those had received letters from you. I did not know but there was some reason why you did not write me for I know you had written to Abbie. I thought perhaps you promised that Sweet heart or that Sweetheart had given you your orders. You know but of course she did not else you would not have written.

You want to know all the news I suppose as I am going of all I can to write you. Mrs Dunton's boarders have come the same girl that was here last Summer and her sister (Mrs French) and child. I like them very much. We were speaking about going on pleasure rides this Summer, but all I done was to tell them I wished you were here then we would have one good ride.

You wanted to know where I was going to the Young ideas &c well I am going to teach in Dis No 4 and board at home I would not have taken that school on any condition if Mother had not been sick and needed me at home. I read your Composition the last day of school it was praised very much, and you was though of by all the scholars on the last day if you were absent. Reading your Composition was all the part I took in the exercises. Fred is at Castine yet. He lost a Brother one week ago and he came home to attend the funeral. But went back the next day so we did not see him [Avan] I wish you would come home and go to Castine with me next fall. I think I shall go if I can get some friend to go with me. I dislike to go alone but there I may be married by that time for I had a beau last night he came after 9 o'clock too who do you suppose it was? It was old Abb Dunton drunk as an owl. Ida was very much frightened. I had to do all the talking. Finally we had to send for Colun to come get him off.

[Avon] all the all the excitement we have round here are prayer meetings. We girls go every night. Wes Calderwood is the most eloquent speaker. The Minister speaks to everyone that makes a noise or laughs so if you were here you would get spoken

to every night he (the Minister) has spoke to all the girls myself included  
(Schoolmarm too)

Ella Cudworth and her husband arrived in town today I cannot think of any more news to write anyway I will write about something else and wait until Sunday.

You said you were going to have pictures. Be sure and send me one. I am going to Camden next Saturday and if it is a good day I will surely have one taken for you, and if Ida goes she will too. Dont Alpheus and you some papers? I should think he would then you would know a little of the doings this way what do you do Sundays? Go to church I suppose and be a good boy. I am going to make Ida write you a letter too. About those verses or rather your history be sure and send it when you have it finished. And I wish you would write some verses for me about Colun V Elma he is half dead after her and I want to plague her perhaps you don't have time but if you do be sure and have Croquet in it I will not write any more tonight for I have not got time nor room either.

[margin]

Winnie sends her love to you

Monday noon I have got through with one half day of school I am tired